

TO: All HHS Employees

FROM: Joe W. Ellis

Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

SUBJECT: Employee Assistance Program

In the past few weeks, HHS employees have made amazing contributions to the effort of helping people rebuild their lives after the devastating effects of recent hurricanes. Thousands of rescue workers have been engaged in one of the largest emergency response operations in U.S. history. The vast majority of HHS employees have contributed by continuing the on-going work of the Department and by being available to assist when called upon.

During the recovery effort, it is common for response workers, residents and our employees to experience sadness, depression, stress, and anxiety after such an event. Depending on the person, these effects can vary in intensity and can linger for weeks or months to come. For many, there may be the need for mental health assistance.

For staff of HHS, mental health assistance is available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Counselors are accessible throughout the country to assist with any mental health issues related to the recent hurricanes.

To find the phone number of the EAP office closest to you, go to <<http://intranet.hhs.gov/ohr/eap>>. Click on "Contact Us". For those who do not have access to the Intranet, contact Lisa Teems at 202-690-8229 or HHSEAP@HHS.gov.

Various publications and other information on the mental health effects of Hurricane Katrina can be found at www.samhsa.gov or www.foh.dhhs.gov. As a reminder, personnel and benefit information can be found at www.opm.gov or <<https://intranet.hhs.gov>>.

If you have questions about your eligibility for the HHS program contact Lisa Teems at 202-690-8229 or HHSEAP@HHS.gov